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March 25, 1982

Ms. Dolly Katz
DETROIT FREE PRESS
321 West Lafayette Street
Detroit, Michigan 48231

Dear Ms. Katz:

I enjoyed having the opportunity again to discuss with you some of the latest data available regarding the health and toxicity effects of PCB's.

As I indicated on the phone, Dr. William Gaffey also presented a paper on human epidemiology studies of PCB exposure at the symposium at Michigan State last week. However, the conclusions from Dr. Gaffey's paper, which was an extensive review of published epidemiology studies of PCB's with emphasis on occupational exposure of workers at relatively high PCB levels (as distinguished from low levels encountered in environmental exposure), reached distinctly different conclusions from Dr. Humprey.

Dr. Gaffey's conclusions are summarized in the attached news release dated August 27 and are detailed in the full text of his paper, which is also enclosed. This is the same paper Dr. Gaffey was invited to present at Lansing and which was presented to the American Chemical Society in New York.

As the full text indicates, the review includes the latest NIOSH study (Brown and Jones) of more than 2,500 workers in an electrical equipment manufacturing plant who had exposure over many years. Over half of the cohort was exposed for 20 years, and many of the workers were exposed in excess of 40 years. This study found no excess in total mortality nor in mortality due to cancer, cardiovascular disease or neurological disorders.

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Since Dr. Gaffey's original presentation in August, 1981, his review paper and the original papers contained therein have been re-examined, along with other significant PCB health and toxicity studies, by several groups of independent scientists. The results of two such detailed studies have recently been submitted to the U.S. EPA in Washington, DC, for their evaluation. Summaries of reviews performed for and submitted by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and the Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) are enclosed for your information. Details of these total submissions to EPA cover several hundred pages and are available from the EPA.

Much new information has been published on the health effects of PCB's since EPA promulgated its Ban Regulations. A recent CMA search of the literature (TOXLINE, MEDLINE and Chemical Abstracts) shows that over 5,000 scientific and technical papers on PCB's have been published from 1976 to-date. At most, Congress and EPA had available less than 2,800 scientific articles which were published during the 10-year period prior to 1976.

The more recent data presents a different picture of the health and toxicity effects of PCB's than was suspected in 1975-76. For example, the latest studies on the Yusho incident indicate that other contaminants in the Japanese-produced heat transfer fluid, not PCB's, were responsible for the observed health effects, and that the Yusho health effects were reversible in many cases and not nearly as severe as originally reported. The Yusho findings are discussed in detail in the EEI and CMA papers.

In addition, workers in Dr. Selikoff's laboratory at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, expressed similar conclusions at the same PCB epidemiology symposium as Dr. Gaffey's original presentation in August, 1981.

I hope you will find this information helpful. If you have difficulty in obtaining details of the data submitted to EPA I'll be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

John H. Craddock jh

John H. Craddock, Product
and Environmental Safety Director

jh
enclosures (5): Gaffey Paper, Gaffey Press Release, CMA Overview, EEI Overview, and Ecology & Environment, Inc. Executive Summary for CMA